

# Lapis Lazuli

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MEHAK BURZA

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### Chattel

My coveted lampshade lies frayed in a corner  
At present, a visitor of flies, a home for dust  
The light from its bulb flickers like a dire mourner

There was a time when you shone  
Illuminating the whole room with your presence  
Alas ! Like me now you too are alone...

There was a time when in each other we sought pleasure  
The lustre of your frame, the resonance for my strength  
I prized you above all, as my greatest treasure

To hold you was a bliss  
To see you was my greatest joy  
To touch you was like a kiss.

Blame it on time, blame it on me  
Part coincidence, part destiny  
A void that will never set me free...

With the last flicker died down, the lampshade lies as dead as ever  
With no light to brighten you up, nor again can be  
With darkness engulfing you, gone is the fervour...

I assume you have forgotten me  
I assume you do not trust me  
I assume you do not love me

My love, my beloved  
My beloved, my love.

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### BIO-NOTE

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Mehak Burza is a doctoral research scholar in the Department of English, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. The title of her thesis is "Literary Representations of the Holocaust: An Assessment." She presented a paper entitled "From Idol to Object: The Changing Contours of Gender Representation in Indian Hindi Cinema" in Gettysberg College in April 2017. Her short story "Locks of Love" has been published in Galaxy International Multidisciplinary Research Journal. Several of her poems have been published in Visual Verse Magazine. Apart from this, her translations have also been published in Purple Ink Magazine, the online magazine of Brown University, L.A.

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